1	2	3	4	5
11.	West Bengal	0.05	0.07	0.08
12.	Nagaland	0.01	0.01	0.01
13.	Andhra Pradesh	6.47	8.74	8.66
14.	Karnataka	8.31	12.25	12.67
15.	Tamilnadu	10.85	18.59	16.22
16.	Pondicherry	0.37	0.62	0.57
17.	Kerala	0.02	0.11	0.13
18.	Goa	0.08	0.16	0.19
	All India	98.24	146.43	164.29

Support Price of Jute

2195. SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL :
SHRI HARADHAN ROY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that prices of raw jute has declined during the last two months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the jute growers have been facing serious crisis due to non remunerative price fixed for raw jute and the Jute Corporation of India is also not procuring raw jute from the growers;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to fix the support price of raw jute in view to protect the interest of the growers and to start procurement from the growers by the JCI ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Large jute crop of 97.5 lakh bales during 1996-97 leaving an estimated carry over stock of over 24 lakh bales as also the good prospects during 1997-98 are the main factors for declining trend in the prices of raw jute.

(c) to (e) The Government has already announced the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for raw jute for TD-grade of Assam for the year 1997-98 at Rs. 570 per quintal as against MSP of Rs. 510 per quintal for the year 1996-97. This price is also Rs. 20 per qtl. higher than that of Rs. 550 per qtl. recommended by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices. While announcing the MSP, the Government has taken into account all releavant factors including cost of production.

The Government has already advised the Jute Corporation of India (JCI) to step up procurement of jute. The following measures have already been taken to protect the interest of the raw jute growers;

(i) JCI have been directed to start MSP operations.

(ii) A sum of Rs. 10 crores has been released by the Ministry of Textiles to JCI to start MSP operations.

(iii) Reserve Bank of India have also authorised JCI an enhanced credit limit of Rs. 10.00 crores valid upto July, 1997.

(iv) Governnemt of India has also sanctioned a Bank guarantee for Rs. 33 crores for MSP operations by JCI.

(v) Further budgetary support will be given to JCI to enhance the activities on MSP operations.

The Hon. Minister of Textiles had already written to the Hon. Minister of Food and the Hon. Minister of Fertilisers and Chemicals to instruct the FCI and other fertiliser companies respectively to place the orders for jute bags.

[Translation]

Scholarship Schemes to SC/ST

2196. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of amount sanctioned under the scholarship scheme for studies of the students belonging to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes during the last three years;